MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) No application for the registry of *puduval* or *poramboke* lands were received from Maravar families in the taluks of Tovala and Shencotta. In the Agastisvaram taluk, there were three such applications, of which two were disposed of otherwise than by registry and one is pending.

(*b*) No land has hitherto been registered in the names of such families in any of the taluks of Tovala, Agastisvaram and Shencotta.

Acquisition of Lands for Approach Roads to Villages of Sambavars.

42. MR. S. GNANA JOSHUA (*Nominated*): (*a*) Is there a Government order to the effect that no compensation should be demanded from Sambavars on account of lands acquired for approach roads to their villages?

(*b*) When was this order passed?

(*c*) Has this order been communicated to the Tahsildars of the Tovala, Agastisvaram, Kalkulam, Vilavankod and Shencotta taluks?

(*d*) If so, when?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes. There is an order to the effect that roads required for the use of the depressed classes should be opened as far as possible at Government cost.

(*b*) The order was passed on the 28th May, 1924.

(*c*) & (*d*) The order is reported to have been communicated to the Tahsildars of Tovala and Agastisvaram taluks on the 3rd Karkatakam, 1100 and to the Tahsildars of Kalkulam and Vilavankod taluks on the 5th Mithunam, 1099. It is reported that the order was not communictaed to the Shencotta Tahsildar.

Medical Aid and Sanitation in the Planting Districts.

43. MR. S. GNANA JOSHUA (*Nominated*): (*a*) How many Government and grant-in-aid Hospitals and Dispensaries are maintained in the planting districts?

(*b*) Does any Government officer periodically inspect the localities in which the labourers and other estate employees live in the planting districts and submit reports regarding the sanitary condition of those localities?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) 13.

(*b*) No Government officer conducts periodical inspection of these places. This is attended to by the proprietors of the estates concerned.

Construction of a foot bridge across the Channankara Canal.

44. MR. S. GNANA JOSHUA (*Nominated*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state when the Chief Engineer was asked to submit an estimate for constructing a foot bridge across the Channankara canal on the road from Pallittura to Kazhakuttam?

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(*b*) Was he asked to provide funds for the work in the P. W. D. Budget for 1100 M. E.?

(*c*) At what stage does the matter stand at present?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) On the 8th August, 1925.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The estimate is under check in the Chief Engineer's Office.

MR. S. GNANA JOSHUA (*Nominated*): With regard to part (*a*), I submit that it is seen, from the Government order issued to the Parish Priest of Veli, that the Chief Engineer was asked to submit an estimate for a foot bridge on the 21st June 1924 and not on the 8th August 1925 as is seen from the answer.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The Parish priest was informed on the 21st June 1924 but the estimate was called for only on the 8th August 1925.

MR. S. GNANA JOSHUA (*Nominated*): In view of the many cases of tragic death, by drowning, that have taken place in the canal during rainy season, as reported to Government by the Parish Priest, for want of a foot bridge, will the Government be pleased to pass orders for the construction and completion of the bridge before the close of the current Malabar year?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The work has been put off since funds were not available. If funds are available, the work will be taken up.

MR. S. GNANA JOSHUA (*Nominated*): It is a matter of life and death to the parishioners. Many deaths have occurred already which could have been prevented if there were a foot bridge at the locality.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The matter will be referred to the Chief Engineer and the needful done.

Expenditure on Irrigation and Communications in preference to that on the Agricultural and Industrial Departments.

45. **MR. G. RAMAN MENON** (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Are not the Government aware, from petitions from the people and representations of the members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and of the Legislative Council, that the agricultural produce of the State and the income of the people can be increased to a considerable extent, if Government spend more money on protective and productive irrigation works and communications in North and Central Travancore?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government are aware that irrigation is capable of improvement; and they have taken steps with a view to such improvement. A temporary staff for the investigation of irrigation possibilities has been sanctioned and proposals for its entertainment are awaited from the Chief Engineer. In regard to communications, all possible steps are being taken to improve them. In the Budget for the current year, the provision for communications is 76 per cent. of the total allotment for works and repairs, and

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